

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

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23 February 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, SIGINT Committee  
Chairman, HUMINT Committee  
Chairman, COMIREX Committee

SUBJECT: Special FOCUS - Cuba (Part I: Assessment of Reporting)

Introduction

1. At the request of Mr. E. H. Knoche, then Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, the Acting National Intelligence Officer for Latin America has assessed all-source reporting on Cuba, adapting the FOCUS procedure for the purpose. This is a "special" FOCUS exercise not only because it goes beyond human source collection to encompass technical collection as well, but because it concerns a denied area where the United States has no official representation. It is designed to apprise collection managers of the Intelligence Community's evaluation of their product, and to provide guidance for future collection in keeping with US policy considerations. It will be used, together with the attached "Prioritized National Intelligence Requirements on Cuba," by each of the three DCI collection committees, SIGINT, HUMINT, and COMIREX, to examine resource ramifications and to prepare strategies and guidance for the collection managers of their respective disciplines. The product of the collection committees will constitute the collection portion of the KIQ Strategy Report on KIQ 12 concerning Cuba for FY 77. Portions of this assessment related to human collection will be sent to selected US embassies where the collection of intelligence on Cuba is accomplished.

Procedure

2. To accomplish this assessment, the Acting NIO for Latin America called a meeting of policymakers, analysts, and collectors concerned with intelligence on Cuba. The meeting was held on 9 December 1976. It was attended by 43 representatives of the:

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Department of State  
 Department of Treasury  
 Department of Defense  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 National Security Agency  
 Central Intelligence Agency.

There was a follow-up meeting of analysts from CIA, DIA, and State, to review shortfalls in intelligence on 13 December 1976.

3. Prior to the meeting, participants had been asked to review all-source reporting on selected topics, identifying those reports which had been particularly helpful in predicting significant developments, in judging the impact of these developments, and in determining action to be taken by the US. They were asked to pinpoint important developments which caught them by surprise because they had no or insufficient reporting on the subject. They were apprised of intelligence gaps which had been perceived by some policymakers and analysts, and asked to review a list of proposed intelligence requirements derived from these gaps, and to arrange them in order of importance. The comments made at the Special FOCUS meeting were the basis for an Interagency Intelligence Memorandum (IIM) entitled "Prioritized National Intelligence Requirements for Cuba" (NI IIM 77-004) which is being presented to the National Foreign Intelligence Board for approval. When approved, these requirements will alter the priority of some intelligence requirements on Cuba listed in DCID 1/2, and thereby assist collection managers in assigning funds and resources for improved intelligence collection.

#### Future Intelligence Collection Related to US Policy Toward Cuba

4. Pending receipt of more specifics, US policy toward Cuba assumes the eventual normalization of relations between the US and Cuba. Collection of intelligence during FY 77 should be geared to inform policymakers and analysts of Cuban plans or actions which could help or impede the normalization process.

#### Review of Intelligence Gaps

5. A review of intelligence gaps on Cuba reveals the frustrations experienced by analysts and policymakers who are concerned with the problem of Cuba. These are spelled out in the hope they will assist collection managers in closing the gaps. They are divided into intelligence gaps inside and outside Cuba.

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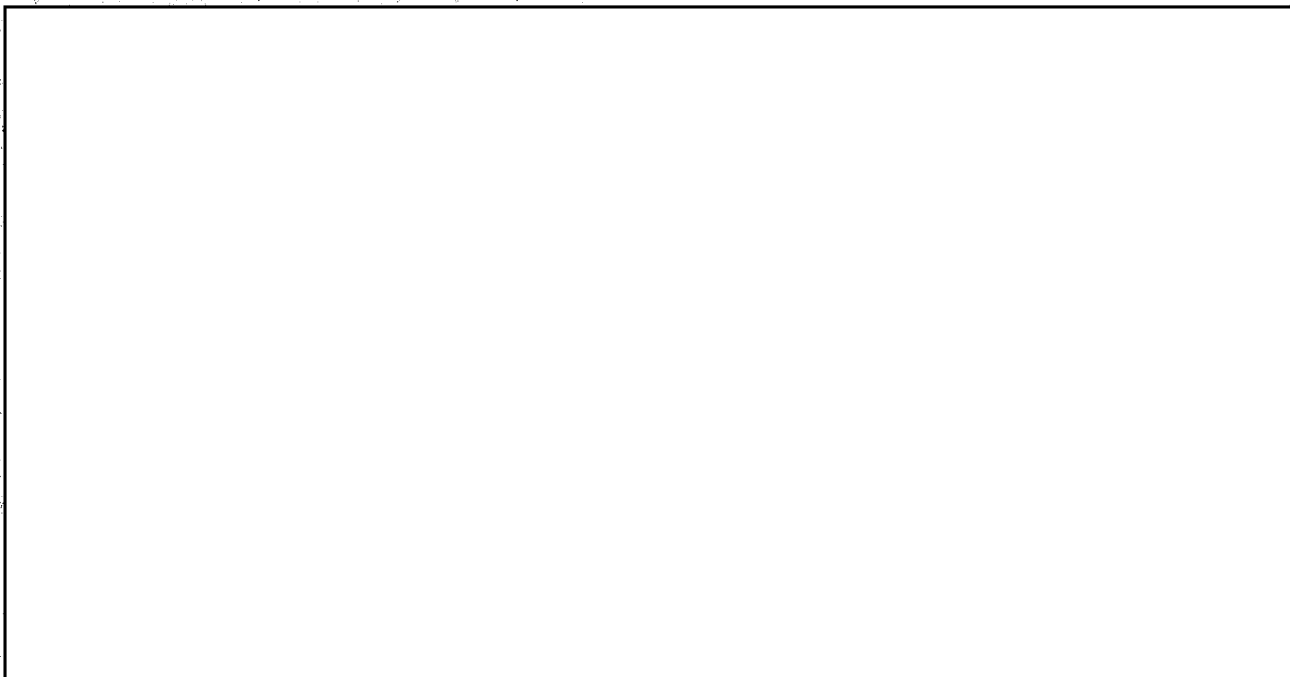
Topics for Assessment

8. The assessment of reporting covers the period from 1 January 1975 to 1 December 1976. To keep the assessment within manageable limits, reporting was assessed against six major topics of importance to the United States:

- a. Cuban steps toward improvement of relations with the US.
- b. Cuban military intervention in Angola.
- c. Cuba's role in Africa and the Middle East.
- d. Increased Cuban influence in the Caribbean.
- e. Institutionalization of Cuba as a communist state.
- f. Cuban-Soviet relations.

The assessment which follows is that of the Acting NIO for Latin America based upon comments by participants in the FOCUS seminar.

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